(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether gross borrowings under external commercial borrowings were 3.9% but the allocation to the shipping industry was less than 4% during 1995-96;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the shipping sector is no longer getting adequate support from the Government in raising their funds either by way of direct loans or guarantees;

(f) if so, whether any final decision for foreign exchange funds for the shipping sector has been taken; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Approval under External Commercial Borrowings to the Shipping Sector during the last 3 years are as under;

Year	Amount (in USD Million)
1995-96	105.404
1996-97	145.880
1997-98	83.120 (upto 30.6.97)

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Investment of Indian Corporates in Abroad

1640. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have recently liberalised the norms governing Indian Corporates investments abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to our country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the existing fast track route under which the RBI issues approvals for proposals of Overseas Investments upto US $ 4 Million on the basis of export track record, Govt. have introduced two new fast track routes for Overseas Investments in Joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries abroad by Indian Companies where the investment is funded out of Exchange Earner's Foreign Currency (EEFC) Account upto a maximum of US $ 15 million and for investments upto 50% of Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) raised with the Govt's approval.

Investment from balances in EEFC accounts would be permitted by Authorised Dealers (ADs). The ceiling of US $ 15 million is inclusive of the ceiling of US $ 4 million under the existing fast track. Investments under the two new fast track routes would also not be subject to the obligation of neutralising investment amount through inward remittances over five years.

(c) The above liberalisation has been announced with a view to encouraging Indian corporates to globalize, and in the line with the Govt's policy to move towards capital account convertibility.

DGFT's Instructions to Banks

1641. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has written to all banks seeking data and names of exporters who have failed to repatriate proceeds and bring in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details of the data received so far by the DGFT; and

(c) the action taken against the errant exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Recently the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), Ministry of Finance have reported that a number of exporters have not repatriated their export proceeds on the basis of information received by them.

DGFT have immediately issued instructions to its Regional Licensing Authorities to obtain necessary details from Regional RBI Authorities and investigate the matter for taking appropriate action.

The exporters who are found to have defaulted in repatriating their export proceeds within the time specified by the RBI, shall be liable to action, *interalia,* under Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, as stipulated in Para 11.3 of the Export & Import Policy 1997-2002.

Produce of Bivoltine Silk

1642. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether JICA in Japan has selected some districts in Karnataka to produce special bivoltine silk;

(b) if so, the names of the districts selected alongwith the amount of assistance provided to produce special bivoltine silk in these districts; and

(c) the number of silk weavers likely to be benefited in these districts from the Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project Phase II of JICA, Japan in Karna-taka ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes Sir.